

Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – FINAL MINUTES

I. Introductions. Alex Edwards, Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus, Clayton Holland, Mike Baldwin, Mike Jeffery, Teri Tibbett

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from 2.14.18. Approved, as amended.

IV. Legislative Advocacy Update

Teri sent out the list of bills and budget items the Trust and partner advisory boards are tracking. Action Alerts for public testimony have been sent out and will continue until the end of session.

Mike J. asked if public testimony was helpful. Teri explained that legislators do count the number of people calling in on any one topic and pay attention more to the items that get the most testimony.

Mike B. added discussion about SB 198, a bill to conduct a study on the effects of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) on the prevalence of FASD. Jeanne commented, why do we need a study, rather than simply offering the contraception?

V. FASD 5-year plan

Jeanne offered that work is being done in five priority areas and that workgroups are actively working through their objectives. There is also an effort to create info graphic to reach a larger group of people. Next meeting on April 24 (meeting of the whole) will report and update.

VI. Member Updates

Mike B. – The Trust has been tracking SB 198 the LARC bill. Also, reported that FASDx sponsored a film showing at the Bear Tooth of “Moment to Moment: Teens Growing Up with FASDs” which explores the lives of four adolescents experiencing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and was well-attended by about 250 people. Dr. Ira Chasnoff, one of the film’s producers, will be in Alaska in late July for film showings, training, and book signings for The Mystery of Risk: Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy, and the Vulnerable Child around the state.

Jeanne – Attended and worked on a 3rd year youth conference in Kiana, planned by the youth, that offered activities, including archery, dream boards, beading, mukluk making, workforce development and job assistance. ANTHC taught suicide prevention and Safety in the Village, volunteers donated food, and Perseverance Theatre performed “The Winter Bear.” The event was funded by donations, Recover Alaska, Stand Up Speak UP, Rural Cap.

Clayton – Reported that the Kenai school district has many special education positions open, with a small pool of applicants (both in Alaska and nationally), citing that pay in lower 48 is same as Alaska’s so the draw isn’t as great as in the past when Alaska paid higher salaries. Also noted other factors, including Alaska’s economy and Alaska is not producing as many teachers as there are positions. The district will continue to work with Deb Evensen on their FASD work beginning again in the fall. The district is still seeing lowered discipline rates, attributed to the FASD work they’re doing with Deb. He is open to presenting with Deb at conferences.

Alex - Entering last six months of their grant, focusing on getting the word out to nurses about screening for alcohol use, working closely with FASDx on that, hoping to apply for additional CDC funding to continue their work. With the 5-year planning workgroup, they're working on the SB 198 LARC paper, primary prevention, universal screening for alcohol use, and increased access to LARC.

Mike J. – Will be attending the Alaska School Nurses Association conference and would like to set up the FASD table. Teri offered to get the tote to Anchorage so he could do that. The high school health class in Utgiagvik (Barrow) has asked Mike to present on FASD for several 50-minute classes, possibly to show “Moment to Moment” and offer a discussion. An elementary school teacher the online course for teachers on DEED website online learning is okay, but not enough. Is going to International FASD conference in Vancouver.

Teri – Tracking and reporting on activities of the legislature, sending out alerts requesting advocates to write letters/emails, call in for public testimony, contact their personal legislators on items affecting people with FASD, their families and caregivers, and providers of services. Also, the mental health board and drug and alcohol board will be meeting in Utgiagvik (Barrow) in April.

VII. Announcements

- Brain Institute on May 18-19 in Anchorage.
- Brain Injury Outreach Clinic, training for providers in Nome in May, clinic third week in June.
- Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse will be meeting in Utgiavik (Barrow), April 17-19.

Next Meeting: June 13, 2018 (no May meeting)